

CHAPTER 3

SECTION 16.3

REFRACTIVE KERATOPLASTY

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

65767 Epikeratophakia

65771 Radial Keratotomy

65760 Keratomileusis

II. DESCRIPTION

A. Refractive keratoplasty is a generic term which includes all surgical procedures on the cornea to improve vision by changing the refraction.

B. Radial keratotomy (See [Chapter 3, Section 16.4.](#))

C. Epikeratophakia is a surgical procedure which involves the removal of the corneal epithelium from the recipient eye and the suturing of a prelathed donor corneal graft onto the surface of the recipient cornea.

D. Keratomileusis involves several procedures. A lamellar keratectomy is performed on the cornea, the resected tissue is modified on the cryolathe, and the carved disk (lenticule) is then sutured onto the patient's cornea.

III. POLICY

A. Refractive keratoplasty procedures which include, but are not limited to, radial keratotomy, kerkatomileusis and epikeratophakia are unproven and not covered. (See [Chapter 8, Section 14.1.](#))

B. Epikeratophakia is also used in the treatment of perforation of the cornea, keratoconus, and pterygium. Its use for treatment of these conditions is well accepted and can be covered. When used for these indications it is not considered a refractive surgery but rather a variant of the lamellar keratoplasty.

C. For information regarding corneal relaxing incision (CPT code 65772) following corneal transplants, see [Chapter 3, Section 16.2](#).

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